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February 22, 2011

The Daily Mississippian

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Recommended Citation

The Daily Mississippian, "February 22, 2011" (2011). *Daily Mississippian*. 615.
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ASB JUDICIAL COUNCIL:
LAST WEEK’S
ELECTIONS
ARE VALID

BY CAIN MADDEN
Campus News Editor

After hearing BJ Barr’s appeal regarding the Associated Student Body elections, the ASB judicial council found no violation and considers the Feb. 15 election valid.

Council chairman Adam Horlock said the section of the code in which Barr cited is contradictory and unclear in areas, however.

“There is significant work to be done concerning the constitution and code in its entirety,” Horlock said in a release. “Outdated and unclear sections of the constitution and code have been neglected over a significant period of time.”

“This is unacceptable and has resulted in the inability to effectively interpret and apply (the code) to current practices.”

The council, which met Monday at 5 p.m., also recommended that a constitutional committee be appointed by March 11, to work on updating the code.

ASB president-elect Taylor McGraw said he would favor such an update.

“I think it is a really complicated document, probably too complicated for student government,” McGraw said. “Our constitution is considerably longer than the U.S. Constitution, maybe even with the amendments included.

“I think if we can go back and start from scratch, looking at what is necessary and what is not, we could come up with a cleaner, easier to understand document and help prevent issues like this in the future.”

ASB attorney general Troy Jackson said he was looking forward to updating the code.

“I am hoping by next fall we will have a constitution and code in place in time for elections,” Jackson said.

Barr’s appeal dealt with a section of the code that states only students at the Oxford campus can vote in student elections. The problem was that myOle-Miss did not distinguish votes between students of the Oxford, Tupelo and DeSoto campuses.

In Title V, Section 130, the constitution states that the election commission needs to have a method to invalidate ineligible votes. Through an e-mail

See ASB, PAGE 5

Recent economic trends deter graduation

BY EMILY DAVIS
The Daily Mississippian

Economic trends already in place are working against obtaining a university degree.

It has nothing to do with an absence of academic discipline and much to do with funding at the federal and state level, which may terminate university education for too many prospective students.

“We have seen a decrease in money supplied from the state government for the past two decades,” said Larry Sparks, vice chancellor of administration and finance. “All 50 states now require some level of education funding from the federal government.”

Ole Miss has created alternatives to help students achieve and excel through education.

Larry Ridgeway, vice chancellor of student affairs, said the last freshman class increased by eight percent and is expecting to see another increase this fall.

“The University of Mississippi has seen a continual increase in enrollment,” Ridgeway said. “Last fall, the freshman class increased by eight percent and we expect another increase this fall.”

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, universities nationwide are seeing a drop in graduation rates.

However, the U.S. is now ninth in the world for citizens who actually hold a college degree, President Barack Obama said in the State of the Union address on Jan. 25.



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

The government has made budget cuts in order to reduce the national deficit and pull the states out of the recession.

In the process, Obama’s budget plan for 2011 causes education to suffer in order to fund entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

State governments have seen budget shortfalls and have responded with cuts in higher education. The University has a total revenue budget of \$423.3 million for the 2010 fiscal year, according to its released statistics.

Only 18 percent of that requirement is covered by state tax dollars, according to those statistics.

Tuition and fees are expected to rise even as state funding de-

creases, Ridgeway said.

“State money now comes in the form of direct payments to students as financial aid,” he said. “The burden has been moved from the taxpayers to the users, from appropriations to tuition fees,”

Tuition payment is the largest source of funding for Ole Miss, making up 33 percent of the University’s revenue according to the information released by the University.

For its part, the federal government has stepped up in offering Pell Grants to students whose family income is less than \$30,000 a year.

“Although Pell Grants do not

See GRADUATION, PAGE 4

Grand Jury meets to discuss Hashman case



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS
The Daily Mississippian

The Lafayette County grand jury met Friday, Feb. 18 to determine whether University of Mississippi cheerleader Johnny Beasley would be held criminally liable for an alleged assault on former University of Mississippi baseball player Taylor Hashman that occurred July 31, 2010.

The meeting concluded a series of rendering hearings that began on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in Oxford. According to local law enforcement officials, the results of the hearings will be released to the public in early March.

Benjamin West, an attorney at Oxford-based law firm Holcomb and Dunbar, said that his office has been serving as an adviser to Hashman throughout the course of the legal proceedings. A statement regarding Hashman and the case is expected to

be released by the firm later this week.

The Beasley family has retained the legal representation of Stephen E. Farese, Sr., a prominent criminal defense attorney and president of Farese, Farese & Farese Law Firm.

Farese, whose firm is headquartered in Ashland, is an alumnus of the Ole Miss Law school and has been the recipient of several awards within the legal profession.

The incident under investigation took place approximately six months ago outside The Exchange apartment complex, now called The Connection, in Oxford where both Hashman and Beasley were attending a party.

Sources said that Hashman was struck and fell to the ground, hitting his head on the concrete. As a result, Hashman suffered a serious head injury from which he has still not fully recovered.

this week

FORD CENTER
SWAN LAKE

The Russian National Ballet is bringing its acclaimed production of “Swan Lake” to the University of Mississippi’s Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts for one show March 4.

With music by Tchaikovsky, “Swan Lake” is based on a German fairy tale and follows the heroic young Prince Siegfried as he labors to free the delicately beautiful swan maiden, Odette, from an evil sorcerer’s spell.

8 p.m. March 4
\$20 Mezzanine/ Balcony (Gen. Adm.) Orchestra/Parterre tickets are sold out.

inside

OPINION
SKIPPING CLASS



NEWS
NEW THAI RESTAURANT
COMES TO OXFORD

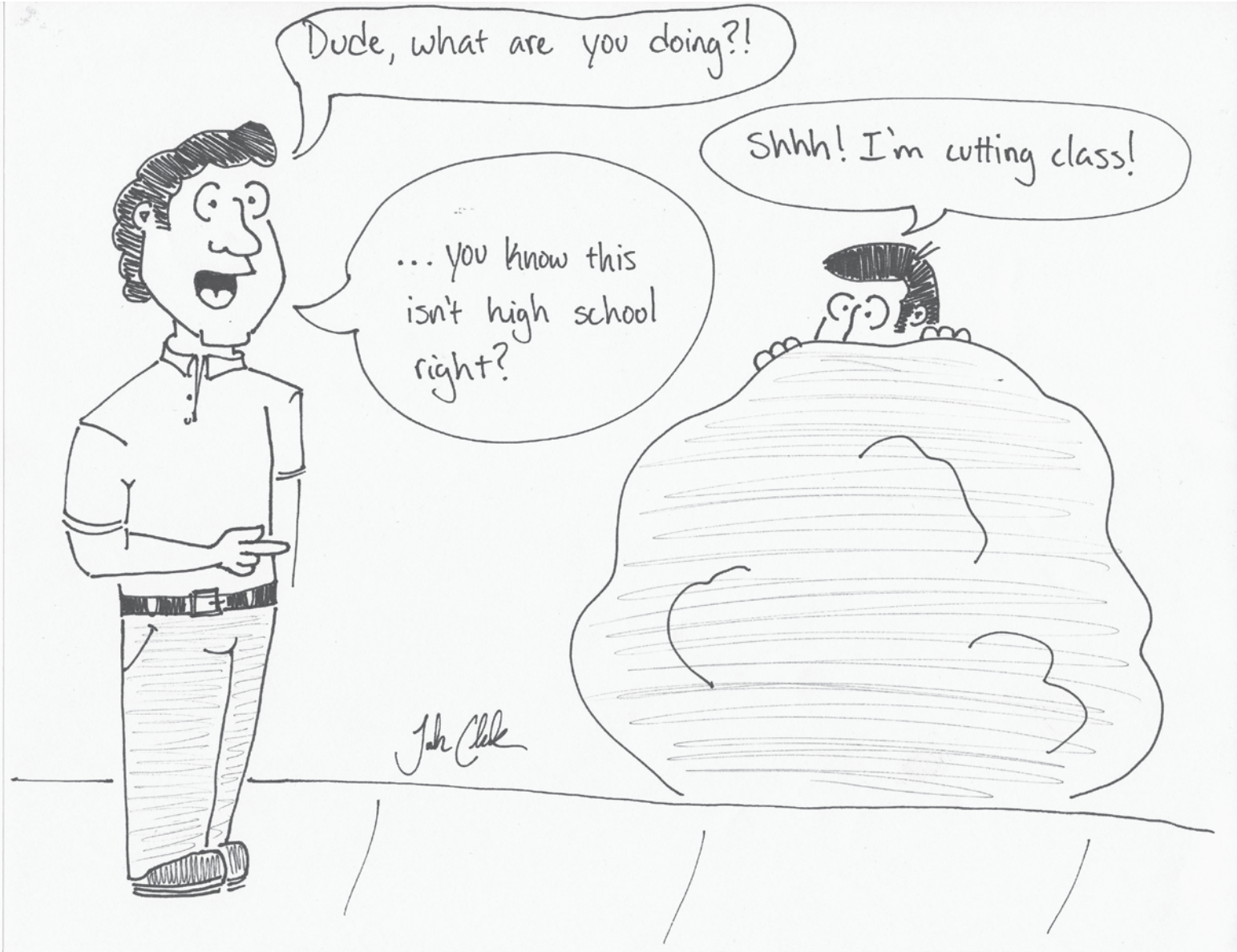


SECTION
TRANSFER QUARTERBACK
COMES TO OLE MISS





BY JOSH CLARK
Cartoonist



Putting our pennies in the wrong pockets



BY BRANDON
IRVINE
Columnist

President Barack Obama released his proposals for the Fiscal Year 2012 budget last Monday, and I have to say I don't think I could have been any more disappointed. Instead of making significant inroads into eliminating the \$1.6 trillion deficit from FY 2011, the President proposed only a \$500 billion reduction in the structural deficit.

Even more telling, the \$500 billion that will not be borrowed in FY 2012 translates into a \$100 billion reduction in borrowing. The President's budget is pre-positioned on a \$400 billion increase in tax receipts.

Obama has proposed cuts to programs affecting college students and the elderly and has proposed increasing spending in areas like K-12 education and overseas aid.

I don't get it.

Why, at any time, is it acceptable to run a deficit

amounting to roughly 33 percent of your total outlays?

What can justify spending billions and billions of taxpayer dollars on foreign aid and building (or rebuilding) things in countries very few Americans will ever visit or care about? What in God's name does the State Department need \$40 billion for?

There is also a request for \$6 billion of states' budgets for "Foreign Military Financing" and "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia."

Foreign military financing? Seriously? In what way is it the responsibility of the United States of America to fund the Grand Army of Azerbaijan? If a country wants an army, it holds the responsibility to find money for it. Get rid of that.

Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia? More pity money. "Oh, you're poverty-stricken? Here, have \$600

million; make it last a year."

That is not the responsibility of the United States of America. There are international non-governmental organizations that can provide assistance to poor countries halfway across the world. The UN has agencies to do that. We don't have to. Cut that.

New in the FY 2012 Budget is a section called "Overseas Contingency Operations," which is where the money spent on the military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan is appropriated, as well as foreign aid appropriations for those two nations and Pakistan.

The total money proposed for OCOs for FY 2012 is \$126 billion. Even if you accept, which I don't, that there is a point in the continued presence of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, there's still no decent reason for the \$8.7 billion allocated to foreign aid.

Everything that money is being used for — schools and hospitals and roads — would be far more properly spent on those things in America, if it must be spent at all. It's simply inconceivable that people in a third-world country have access to better hospitals and newer roads than people in America.

To summarize: the FY 2012 budget allocates too much money to the wrong places and has its priorities completely backward. There is far too much focus on the future instead of the present, too much emphasis on hope and not enough on practical solutions for current predicaments. It is a completely hopeless and ridiculous thing, and it's imperative that Congress take steps to approve a budget that makes sense for America's current fiscal situation, which this proposal certainly does not.

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The University of Mississippi
S. Gale Denley Student Media Center
201 Bishop Hall

Main Number: 662.915.5503

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Daily Mississippian is published daily Monday through Friday during the academic year.

Contents do not represent the official opinions of the university or The Daily Mississippian unless specifically indicated.

Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



'Glee' makes millions not watch



BY AMELIA CAMURATI
Opinion Editor

While driving to class, I was listening to my recently downloaded copy of "Doo-wops & Hooligans" by Bruno Mars. The only song I knew before then was his chart-topping hit "Grenade" because I was too slow to catch on during the fame of "Just the Way You Are."

At least, that's what I thought.

A few tracks in, I heard a familiar beat and began to know some of the words to a song called "Marry You." I don't listen to the radio, and I've never heard this album before, so I started scanning my brain for the origin.

I began to think, "Wow, this is a lot better than I remember it," and it hit me: They covered this song on Glee.

Monday afternoon, AP released a brief story simply stating that in the past 18 months since appearing on the Billboard Hot 100 list, the cast of Glee has achieved an unprecedented 113 songs on the chart.

The importance of this: Elvis only had 108.

The biggest problem with this scenario is that not a single song that has made the charts thanks to these sub-par young adults pretending to be teenagers has been an original work from anyone.

Yes, they may have created a couple of mash-ups and stripped some bolder songs down to the bare acoustics, but they haven't written a word.

While the popularity of the cover might bring popularity to the original, chances are the Glee fanatics aren't interested in

finding out who originally performed any of them.

They want their overworked and ruthlessly auto-tuned versions, and that's the end of that.

Since the beginning of the series in 2009, there has been constant media frenzy surrounding the show thanks to the "wonderful musical entertainment" and "groundbreaking plot."

The songs were not always the best quality since most of the actors were chosen on looks and not talent, but originally, the plot was actually enticing. Sadly, by the end of season one, the plot took a back seat once the producers realized the only thing most of their viewers cared about were the big, flashy, emotional musical numbers.

Glee was given the coveted post-Super Bowl slot this year, which only meant more bad music after a night of musical mis-

haps. The episode only pulled in 26 million viewers, which is a low number considering it's annually one of the most coveted spots in primetime television.

The slot is not only meant to bring in millions of viewers that night, but also to get new viewers hooked. However, their ratings stood at a solid 11 million the following Tuesday, which is no increase from previous weeks.

This number sounds large, but in comparison to American Idol and its 22 million views, it's just a fading blip on the radar.

While the show isn't managing to attract any new viewers, the current Gleeeks are holding on strong.

Right now, the Glee cast has 10 singles on the iTunes top 200, outnumbered only by Justin Bieber with 13. No one else even comes close.

The show is only a season and

a half into its run (with season three already set for Fox), and they have maxed out its potential.

As much as I hate to admit it, I have more friends than necessary who are head-over-heels obsessed with the show, so I've seen more than enough to know the plot is nonexistent, the musical numbers are cheesy and the actors can't sing.

Lea Michelle has some above-average musical theater songs and Jane Lynch never fails to entertain, but that's about all the show has going for it right now.

Thankfully, they lost regionals at the end of season one, so they still have that goal to keep the show plowing forward.

Slowly but surely, more people are beginning to see the flaws in Glee's basic structure and are getting annoyed with the weekly morality lesson thanks to Mr.

Schuster, peppered with the six songs allotted each episode.

If the Glee producers want to keep their viewers and even bring in new ones, they need to understand how predictable their show has become and how bored America is getting, no matter how many times Katie Couric guest stars.

The Glee covers aren't better than any of the originals. Many of them don't even sound much different except for the flat notes.

Without the music, Glee would be a thing of the past, yet the music is the majority of the problem.

Until someone can actually write and perform an original song, I can't honor them as the superb artists they should be with 113 hits.

Or, you know, when they can sing without being electronically corrected.

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GRADUATION, continued from page 1

cover all the tuition, they help lower the cost for families at the lower end of the economic spectrum who are still struggling," Ridgeway said.

According to Sparks, as the national economy suffers and tuition costs increase, Ole Miss, like other universities across the country, is seeing an increase in students looking for financial aid while less assistance is being supplied from the government.

"A few years ago, Pell Grants were available to students who wanted to enroll in summer sessions, but not anymore," Ridgeway said. "Now they are only available to students during the fall and spring terms."

For some students unable to afford major universities, community colleges have become

more appealing.

Northwest Community College in Southaven has partnered with Ole Miss and is involved in helping students finance their education at a lower cost.

"I chose to attend a community college because they offered less expensive courses and I could still technically graduate from Ole Miss," Sarah Nahhas, a junior business major at Northwest Community College, said.

The University created a partnership and they share the campus, but funding is separate and unique, Sparks said.

Students can acquire an associate's degree by taking courses below the 300 level at the community college for lower costs, then finish their education through Ole Miss at the South-

haven campus.

"Chancellor Sparks has created the Ole Miss Opportunity Program that is available this year for the first time," Ridgeway said. "It bridges the gap for tuition and housing that is not already covered by the Pell Grant."

In addition to the Pell Grant and other federal funding, Ole Miss has offered other forms of scholarships such as the Mississippi Tuition Grants Program and the Scholars Program since 1995.

"The economy is growing but progress is measured by the success of our own people by the jobs they can find and the quality of life they acquire," Obama said in the 2011 State of the Union address.

Texting while driving may soon be illegal in Miss.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ED WRIGHT | The Daily Mississippian

BY MALLORY SIMERVILLE
The Daily Mississippian

The objective of Dexter McCluster's commercial for Cellular South may soon become state law. Text messaging on a cell phone while operating a vehicle may soon be illegal.

"One text message can wait, because it's not worth losing your life or getting in a car wreck and taking someone else's life," McCluster said.

Senate Bill 2793 survived the Mississippi Senate, with all but two voting for it, and will now move into the House of Representatives. It prohibits reading or writing any written communication with an electronic device while driving in the state.

The ticket for the offense would result in a fine of up to \$500, which increases to \$1,000 if the offender causes an accident. This bill will repeal the current law, which prohibits "texting while driving by the holders of temporary and intermediate licenses."

Currently, the law does not allow texters to be pulled over without committing another offense, like speeding or running a stop sign. Oxford Police Chief Mike Martin said that tickets for offenses such as careless driving or failure to maintain proper control of the vehicle can be given to those texting and driving, but only after the use of the device has impaired driving. The new law would allow officials to stop and ticket someone seen texting before it begins to affect their driving.

"It's very difficult to observe someone texting and driving," Martin said. "I think we had other tickets that we could write, but I agree with the law."

Mississippi will join a list of 30 other states if the law passes.

"At the end of the day, I think it's fair. It can save lives," McCluster said. "It will help peo-

ple wake up, because a \$500 to a \$1,000 offense, that's a lot of money. I think people will stop and think about the consequences, not only the money but the dangers of it."

The bill does not address dialing a number, receiving a call or talking on a mobile device, however.

Martin said texting while driving is done mostly by younger drivers, but not always. He said that to him, it's noticeable that texting isn't the only distraction.

"Just pay attention for a little while, just ride around town and you can easily see people who are not paying attention to driving their car. It just takes a blink of an eye for something to go really bad," Martin said. "I'm against your doing anything that distracts you from driving that vehicle."

McCluster said he only had one message for Ole Miss students and Oxford residents when it comes to texting and driving.

"You can tell them that DMC personally is riding up the road looking for texting and driving, and I will let down my window and let them know not to do it," McCluster said. "I won't give them a ticket, but I will let them know."

McCluster is featured in a Cellular South commercial discouraging texting while driving that plays on television and at the beginning of each football game. He said Cellular South reached out to him, and he wrote the feature rap of the commercial.

"It was something I used to do, and I really want to contribute to it," McCluster said. "I think people will listen because a lot of people look up to me."

For the complete video interview with McCluster concerning texting and driving, visit thedmonline.com

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Survey helps the University determine student engagement

BY AMBER HELSEL
The Daily Mississippian

The National Survey for Student Engagement asked college freshmen and seniors how they spend their time in effective educational practices. Students are asked to fill out a survey every year, and the amount of students that participate helps determine the results.

“The more student participation we get, the better the results are,” said Kate Kellum, associate director of institutional research and assessment. “The NSSE survey is a tool that universities use to get students to self-report how engaged they are. Then the data is put into a large database and you can

compare from our university to other universities.”

The survey also includes items such as whether the students participated in class discussion, met with their professors outside of class, wrote a paper over five pages or prepared a presentation.

The NSSE gives students the choice of choosing on a scale of one to four on each of the questions. One means never, two means sometimes, three means often and four means very often.

The data from students is then averaged, and the mean of those numbers is what is reported. Taken out of the NSSE 2010 survey newsletter: the five main areas that are surveyed are “level of academic challenge,

active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching education experiences and a supportive campus environment.”

Last year’s survey compared the University of Mississippi with other schools in the nation, which were divided into two peer groups. The first group, the Carnegie peers, includes the University of Alabama, the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Arkansas. The second group, SUG, includes Auburn University, Mississippi State University and the University of Texas at Austin.

The 2010 survey reached 551 first-year students, and 1,186 seniors. The school at Ole Miss with the most responses was the school of liberal arts, which

received answers from 299 freshmen and 403 seniors. The school that received the least freshmen respondents was the school of accountancy, where 17 students answered the survey. The school that received the fewest senior respondents was the school of journalism and new media, with 44 seniors. Overall, Ole Miss received 28 percent participation from the student body.

From the data gathered from last year’s survey, Ole Miss ranks higher in some areas compared to other universities and lower in others.

“I think that we will slowly continue to increase in some of the areas, particularly things like writing,” Kellum said. “I think that those students who

got exposure to the Center for Writing and Rhetoric classes will probably rank writing a little bit higher than they have in the past. It’s not exactly a test that Ole Miss passed. It’s more information about how well we’re doing in different areas.”

Students who do the survey for this year will be entered into a drawing for a faculty/staff parking permit. Seniors will be put into a pool for a 5-year free membership to the alumni association.

This is part one of a two-part article. The second article will compare the numbers.

For more information on the survey, contact Kellum at kkellum@olemiss.edu or Tiffany Gregory at tlgregor@olemiss.edu.

Rice & Spice brings Thai food to Jackson Avenue

BY LEE HARRIS
The Daily Mississippian

For those looking to add some spice into their life, Oxford has a new Thai restaurant.

Despite opening fewer than two weeks ago, Rice & Spice has generated a lot of interest from Oxford residents and has had an almost constant wait for a table.

“It has been over our expectations,” owner Sam Thamutok said. “We thought it would kind of grow slowly, but from the first day, we have been very busy.”

Thamutok, who moved to Oxford last year from Texas, said he saw an opportunity here to fill a need in Oxford’s restaurant market.

“There are some restaurants that offer Thai food on their menu, but it’s not real Thai,”

Thamutok said. “Thai food is very popular elsewhere, but not here, so we can fill the gap.”

Rice & Spice will provide another option for Thai food in Oxford, competing with Bangkok Thai on Frontage Road.

By contrast to most restaurants, Thamutok said he didn’t want to grow too fast. He said Rice & Spice is unique in its size and authenticity, and he doesn’t want it to become what he called “commercial.”

“We want to create the atmosphere like eating at your friend’s home,” Thamutok said. “We want to be the neighborhood restaurant; we don’t want to be a chain.”

Ole Miss student Thad Williams ate at the restaurant and he said it lived up to the standards that Thamutok had set for his es-

tablishment.

“It was really good,” he said. “It seemed like it was very authentic.”

Another aspect that sets Rice & Spice apart from its competitors is its use of fresh ingredients, Thamutok said. During the spring and summer months, Thamutok said he intends to use fresh vegetables grown by one of his employees instead of buying from outside sources.

“One of our members owns a garden and a greenhouse,” he said. “A lot of our vegetables will be fresh from her garden. We can support local people and you don’t have to worry about pesticides.”

Rice & Spice is located on Jackson Avenue in the former location of Bofield’s, near Papa John’s. The restaurant has a lunch



QUENTIN WINESTINE | The Daily Mississippian

menu that averages \$8 per plate and a dinner menu that costs about \$10 per plate.

It is open Tuesday through Sat-

urday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is also open on Sunday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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conversation with election commission member Lauren Steele, Barr found that the commission did not have a method to invalidate votes.

Jackson confirmed in a previous article that students from all three campuses cast votes, but added that there was no way to determine where individual votes came from. ASB is not made aware of where the votes come from or who voted for who due to a student’s right to voting privacy, Jackson said Sunday.

McGraw said he was glad the judicial council did not pursue the appeal.

“I understand that there were possible grounds for it, but the intent of the code did not really match up with the complaint,” McGraw said. “From what I understand, it was something outdated in the code that needed to

be updated but hasn’t been.

“I am sure that we will correct that in the senate shortly.”

Jackson said he was also pleased with the outcome.

“I am just happy about the fact that ASB is going to move

forward and start working on fixing the code,” Jackson said. “I hope everyone involved will start working to make the ASB code better for students.”

Barr could not be reached for comment Sunday evening.

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LEFT: Freshman Biology major Will Shirley flips through books at the AAUW book sale. The book sale is in the Union today from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with books starting at 50 cents. TOP: Kappa Kappa Gamma member Becca MacNeill runs the ball at Saturday's PIKE Powderpuff football tournament. Delta Delta Delta won the tournament. BOTTOM: Ole Miss lock Jason Darby pushes towards the goal line to set up the first try of Saturday night's rugby match against Mississippi State. The Rebels beat the Bulldogs 12-0.

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Dear clothing retailers, please don't make us try on swimsuits yet

BY MARY B. SELLERS
The Daily Mississippian

It gets earlier every year, so now, with the ringing in of the New Year, stores jump at the opportunity to stock up on us girls' favorite thing to buy. I am talking about swimsuits. Target, Dillard's, (and if you are brave enough) Victoria's Secret — they all team up, decide to be mean and stock their shelves with skimpy, unimaginably darling swim suits that make me cringe, want to pull my hair out and run and hide behind the maternity section shelves. There are rows and rows and rows of these things — all clones, all alluring, all impossibly frightening to this pale college girl, creeping around the

aisle to steal another glance. I do not want to be reminded of the massive amounts of food I have been inhaling since November. I cannot even stand the sight of my tennis shoes and gym shorts, so do stores really think I want to stand around, fully clothed, examining bathing suits for God's sake? I know it is about advertisement, season and all of that economic/business mumbo-jumbo that I have no real interest in reading about, but it's early in January, even early February (despite the seductively warm temperatures Oxford has been experiencing lately), to start selling those things. Hey, stores, give the public time to reevaluate their lives and get on the elliptical a couple of times before you all turn up the pressure cooker.

Case closed. There must be a method to this madness. Maybe there is some secret alliance of swimsuit-carrying stores that no one knows about. Maybe they all have a super-duper secret agenda to pressure the world into slimming down and exposing themselves. Before I know it, news of nude beaches will be springing up, and I am going to be faced with some very extensive body image therapy before I can set foot on one. But I will move past this. Let the stores be all secretive and pushy. Do I look like I care? I will chalk it up to stores' tough love for the general public. It is kind of humanitarian if you think really hard about it and squint your eyes. Now I have another bone to

pick. They are cute, they are fun and they are flirty. They are everything a girl wants in a swimsuit, except one thing - the skimpiness. The strings are thinner, the bottoms are half a bottom at the most and the tops are doll-sized. I am all for a string bikini, but really, we do need a little cover — this is not Europe. And for some strange reason, the smaller and less fabric the bathing suit actually requires, the more it demands from my credit card. Something is definitely not right. Then, there is the problem with the name. Does anyone really swim anymore? Last time I was near a large body of water, most girls were frying on the white-hot sand. Any mention of saltwater set

them to screeching and protesting like I had just suggested we all go find the nearest colony of jellyfish and try to make friends with them. Not to mention the fact that any mildly large wave would most definitely rip off any one of these swimsuits. Embarrassment much? Maybe that is why most girls stick to tanning. In conclusion, I do not have any foreseeable solutions for this growing epidemic of troublesome swimsuits. I guess I should thank our corporate friends for pushing me in the direction of a better, brighter and skimpier future. So go out there and face those clothing racks with the sort of gumption any fashion guru would be proud of. Spring Break is only three weeks away, right?



Has Internet usage changed our English?

BY EMILY CEGIELSKI
Lifestyles Editor

Juliet stands upon her balcony, crying into the night. The wind whips her nightgown around her legs, and she lets out a sigh. "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?" Romeo lies hidden, pondering what to do as Juliet finishes her soliloquy, and high school students all around the world wonder why he does not immediately come running. Obviously, she is calling for him. She wants him. She needs him. She wonders where he could be. Right? Wrong. One of the most quoted lines of Shakespeare is also one of the most misunderstood. Juliet is not summoning the man of her dreams; she is questioning why he must be a Montague, an enemy, a foe. She is distressed, and she laments. She has no idea that Romeo is lurking in the shadows like a stalker. As outdated as Romeo's creepy behavior might be, the language used is even more obsolete, which is the cause of most students' confusion. No one uses "wherefore art thou" in today's society. No one knows what it means. Language has evolved to the point where average students rely on "translations" of Shakespeare to pass high school English. According to linguists, this gradual evolution of words is not something to fear but a cause for excitement. "A very cool thing about the English language is its natural evolution," said Donald Dyer, department of modern languages chair and linguistics professor at the University of Mississippi. "We hear people

making up their own words or using words in a different context than what we are used to hearing. Often we think of these people as unintelligent, but the language they are using will become the norm in about 100 years." To make his point, Dyer uses the Elizabethan era as an example. People began mixing up forms of "ye" and "thou," which eventually led to the modern "you." Throughout history, words have come and gone, changed form and meaning and been completely obliterated. This is nothing new. But with the simultaneous emergence of technology and social media, a complete collapse of language seems to be at our doorstep. Many people

think that texting and chatting have simplified language to the point of no return. Most linguists disagree. "What people mention when they lament the 'deterioration of language' is people straying from supposed grammar rules," Douglas Bigham, editor-in-chief of Popular Linguistics magazine, said. "The truth of the matter is that these supposed 'rules' were never really 'rules' to begin with." Dyer says he agrees. "It's pretty easy to take pot shots at technology for affecting language," Dyer said. "I will concede that it might have a limited effect on punctuation and vocabulary, but not on structure." See WORDS, PAGE 8



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Independent Study at Ole Miss

Fat Possum Records brings Indie Rock to Oxford

BY ASHLEY LOCKE
The Daily Mississippian

Fat Possum Records is known today for recording indie rock bands; however, it had humble beginnings with a different genre of music.

Matthew Johnson, a former University of Mississippi student, founded Fat Possum Records in 1991 after hearing blues musician R.L. Burnside play guitar.

Using money from a student loan and the motto “We’re Trying Our Best,” Johnson began the studio with Burnside as its first signed artist.

The second artist signed was Junior Kimbrough, another blues musician. Blues quickly became the face of Fat Possum, with Johnson signing other musicians like Willie Mitchell, T-Model Ford and many other locals.

“There were a lot of local guys that were being overlooked completely,” Johnson said in a Blues Access interview. “We were in the middle of a blues revival, and there were all these people in Mississippi who had never made a first record.”

Johnson did not like the way that the blues had its rawness

polished out in the studio, so he recorded the artists with the intent of keeping their soul intact.

Johnson was often praised for recording the blues before the genre died out, and it seems he captured the sound of a bygone era just in time.

Junior Kimbrough died in 1998 and R. L. Burnside died in 2005.

Many of the label’s artists, like King Ernest and Charles Caldwell, did not live long enough to see their albums released.

Fat Possum became well-respected in the music community, putting out albums that always received good ratings.

However, that did not keep the studio from having money problems.

Burnside was the studio’s biggest money maker, but even he was not able to keep funds from drying up after a legal battle with former distributor Capricorn Records.

The lack of money left Fat Possum unable to release any music for a two-year period.

In 1996, Fat Possum’s parent company, Epitaph, pulled it out of bankruptcy.

Eventually, the blues musicians that Fat Possum was known for recording were no more, but the label did not die with its artists. Instead, the label began recording more independent rock bands.

“Nothing is forever, and if it’s not changing then it’s dead,” Johnson said in an interview with National Public Radio.

And change it did.

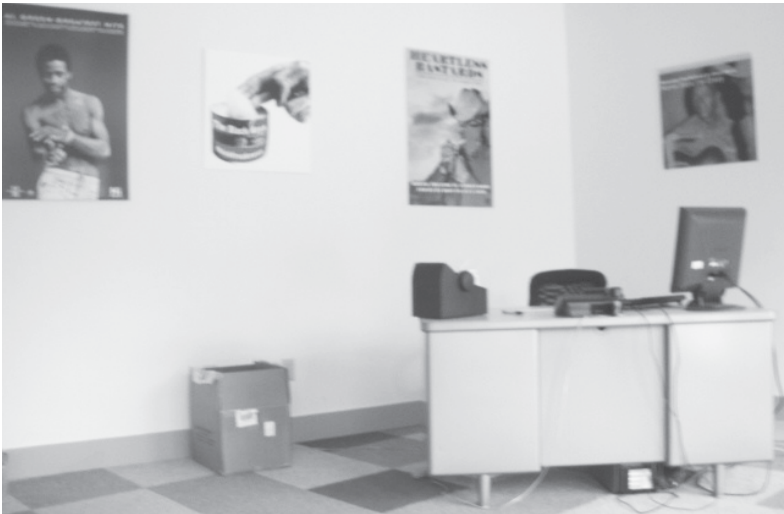
The label began to record albums with artists like the well-known Grammy award-winning Black Keys, along with other independent artists such as A.A. Bondy and Band of Horses.

“Fat Possum Records is bringing a lot of good music to Oxford,” freshman Zack Grossenbacher said. “It’s a really neat place to have in a college town.”

Popular Tennessee summer music festival Bonnaroo lists Fat Possum artists the Smith Westerns and Wavves in its 2011 lineup.

These artists often schedule local shows, such as Wavves’ performance at Proud Larry’s last year.

“It’s really cool to know that some of the bands I listen to record in the town I go to school in,” freshman Mary Elizabeth



ASHLEY LOCKE | The Daily Mississippian

The front desk of Fat Possum is surrounded by posters of the artists they have recorded.

Smithson said.

While these artists fit in the lo-fi, hi-fi and rock genres, there is plenty of room for folk as well.

The Felice Brothers recently announced signing with Fat Possum for their fifth album.

Although a new era of music is taking over, Fat Possum still sells its old blues recordings.

Much of the Fat Possum sound is new, but they continue to stick to their roots — music that people want to hear.

The studio is small and gray, almost unnoticeable.

“There isn’t much to the outside,” Fat Possum employee Ben Buckner said.

But as we all know, it is what is on the inside that counts, and the inside of Fat Possum is full of rock and soul.

The Fat Possum motto “We’re Trying Our Best” sticks with them to this day, and it seems that their best is more than good enough.

In 1991 Fat Possum made a place for itself in the music industry, and in 2011 it has also made a name.

WORDS,

continued from page 7

In fact, today’s overreliance on technology has seemed to slow the natural evolutionary course of language.

“It appears as though technology simply doesn’t interact with the brain in the same way that face-to-face human communicative speaking does,” Bigham continued. “That is, regular old conversations still account for the majority of causes when language changes.”

As steadfast as these linguists are in their belief that language cannot deteriorate, not every-

one buys it.

“Particularly with their ability to chat, students are losing their ability to communicate,” Ken Boutwell, assistant professor of mass media history at Ole Miss, said. “Technology has had a detrimental effect, and looking back in history, I can’t think of a time that has been impacted by anything as much as we have been impacted by social media.”

According to the Nielson Company, Americans spend approximately 8.18 hours a week on social networking sites. This

statistic alone is reason to believe that technology and social media must be having an effect on the way we speak.

But languages worldwide evolve at a rate that is completely independent of technology use.

“It appears that the same forces of face-to-face driven change apply to all languages, not just English,” Bigham said. “Although some languages seem to change more quickly than others, it’s certainly not because of access to technology. If anything, technology

slows language change because it connects more people.”

Whether technology has destroyed the basic structure of language or not, what cannot be denied is the technical jargon that has evolved due to social media.

Facebook has changed the meaning of “friend,” “poke” and “like.” Twitter has coined the terms “tweet,” “Twitterverse” and “Twitterati.” “Screenager,” (a person in his or her teens or 20s who has an aptitude for computers and the Internet) “cyberslacking” (using one’s employer’s Internet and e-mail facilities for personal activities during work hours) and “ego-surfing” (searching the Internet for instances of one’s own name or links to one’s own Web site) are all recent inductees into the Oxford English Dictionary.

Although many people frown upon these words and usages, the creativity and intelligence behind each syllable, word and phrase cannot be denied.

While technology and social media are to thank for these particular sets of vocabulary, the creation of words goes back to the beginning of mankind.

Of the 17,677 words used in Shakespeare’s works, he created 1,700. Without Shakespeare’s imagination, commonly used words such as “frugal,” “critical,” “hurry,” “road” and

“laughable” would be unknown. That’s not to mention the 47 well-known phrases he coined.

Back then, no one was blaming the quill. No one was complaining about a change in language. No one was worried, and according to Bigham, we should not be either.

“Unless you are a linguist who studies language change, there is no reason to be concerned with it,” he said.

So what should we be concerned about?

Death, destruction, war? The fact that creepers like Romeo still exist, except now we call them peeping Toms and pedophiles?

Language and communication skills are vital, but responsibility lies with each individual to harness and polish his or her talent. Accusing technology and social media of the destruction of words is like blaming coffee for the destruction of tea.

Tea might not be as popular as it once was, but lots of people still drink it. Not to mention, coffee is an inanimate object. Technology, an inanimate object. Social media, although we might want to believe otherwise, inanimate.

We are the ones who control these things. We control language and the way it is used.



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | 5 | | 3 | | | |
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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

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| | | | | | | | | |
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| 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 |

By JIM DAVIS

By J.C. DUFFY

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ACROSS

1 "I, —" (rock autobio)
5 Turnpike rumblers
10 Aim toward
14 Rainbow goddess
15 Piece of lumber
16 Stage award
17 Crooked
18 Designer Nina
19 Manner
20 Vim and vigor
22 Inveterate
24 Pine secretion
25 Forceful removal
26 Oater showdown
28 Like a melon
32 "Hey —" (Beatles)
35 So far
37 Crow's-nest cry (2 wds.)
38 Crack pilot
39 Spacious
41 Mouse alert
42 Inelegant solution
45 Corral
46 Adventurer, often
47 Van Gogh's stand
48 Shaft
50 Tied securely
54 Black-and-white whales
58 Hollered (2 wds.)

DOWN

1 Caesar's river
2 Dunne or Castle
3 Softball teams
4 On a bike
5 Agile
6 Bulldogs backer
7 — Picchu
8 Pizarro foes
9 Avoid, as an issue
10 Four-bagger (2 wds.)
11 Poet's black
12 Staff member
13 Land document
21 Wildebeest
23 — vu
25 Margarine
27 Fictional governess
29 — fixe
30 "Mask" star
31 Julian's stepmom
32 Copacetic

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|------|------|
| GOAL | | | ELL | DALE |
| OLLAS | | OREO | IBEX | |
| WEARY | | NODS | SATE | |
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| ROTATING | | SERGE | | |
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| ANORAK | | MACHINES | | |
| SIZE | CLEF | AGAPE | | |
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| NARD | RVS | TEED | | |

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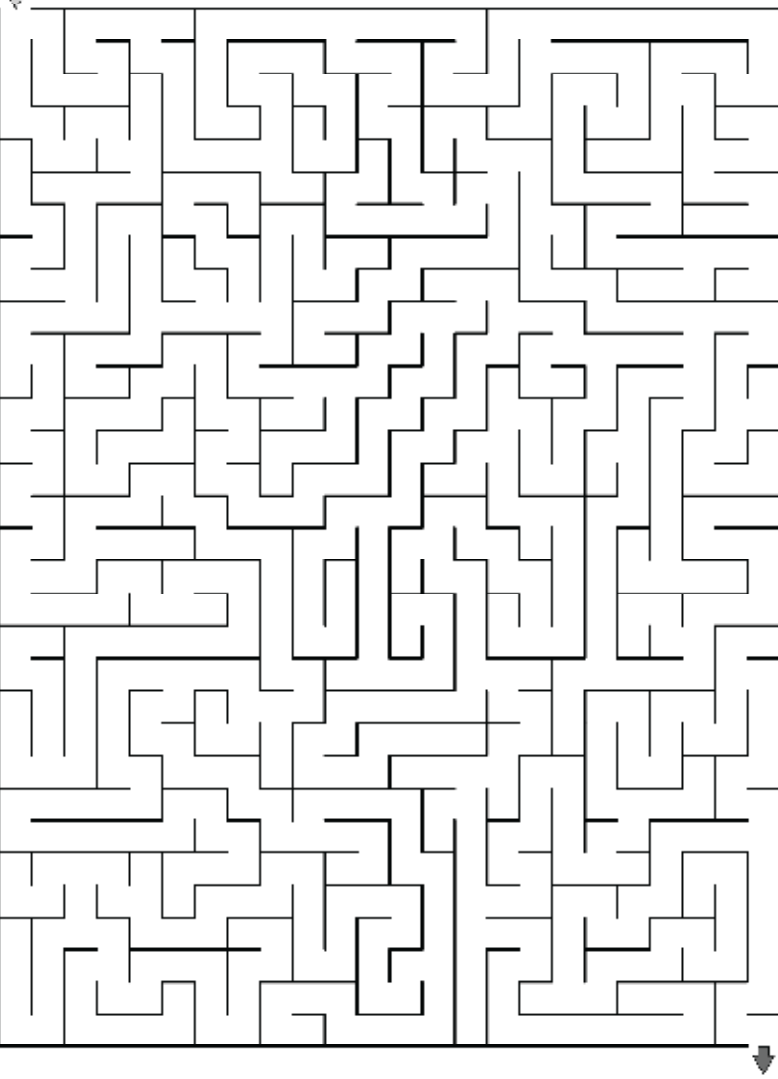
33 NCAA Bruins
34 — ex machina
36 Cover
37 Tufted-ear cat
40 Honey wine
43 Erased
44 Very willing
46 Sardine fish
49 London lav
51 Daytime dramas
52 Half of Mr. Spock
53 Chopin opus

55 Bedouin's mount
56 Rock tumbler stone
57 Sixth —
58 Industry magnate
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Opening weekend marked by new bats and broomsticks

BY ANDREW DICKSON
The Daily Mississippian

The Ole Miss Baseball team (3-0) entered the first weekend of the season with plenty of new faces and the NCAA's newly introduced "ping-less" bats.

But the show that a combined crowd in excess of 24,500 people saw over a three-day stretch at Swayze Field is starting to look like a rerun.

Crowds and places tend to earn the reputations they are given. The Ole Miss baseball experience is no different.

The crowds, games and overall atmosphere found at Oxford-University Stadium this week-

end were as good as advertised.

The Rebels gained some experience against a good Wright State (0-3) team that Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco had high praise for: "They're very well-coached. You can tell why they win their league and go to the (NCAA tournament) a lot."

Wright State, champions of the Horizon League in 2010, offered a good test for opening weekend and provided the Rebels with some experience in close games early on.

Despite winning Friday night 15-6, the Rebels won Saturday and Sunday's contests by only a one-run margin.

Nonetheless, a sweep is a

sweep.

"It's great to see that our team can be put in different situations and can still keep our focus," Rebel first baseman Matt Smith said about the weekend.

The reactions to the new bats that were introduced by the NCAA this weekend have made headlines. These bat are intended to reduce the speed of the ball as it comes off the bat — thus lowering the risks of injuries and five-hour slugfests.

"I think it's probably closer to what baseball should be," Georgia coach David Perno said, adding that a premium will now be put on "true power hitters."

Bianco's teams often boast

strong pitching, and the potential transformation of college baseball from "homer-happy" to "pitcher-friendly" will pay dividends for teams with a deep and talented pitching staff.

But the Rebels had little trouble putting runs on the board this weekend, tallying 26 runs on 38 hits over the three game series, hopefully a sign that the Ole Miss hitters are ahead of the curve in picking up the new bat's nuances.

All in all, the 2011 opening weekend for Ole Miss baseball could not have gone any better. The weather was perfect and the fans were into every pitch, creating an energetic atmosphere that

served to remind us why we have such great love and optimism for this game and program.

Seventeen of the next 20 games on the Ole Miss schedule will be played at Swayze Field, and games are often played five out of seven days of the week — the only person you have to blame for missing the Swayze experience is yourself. Don't wait until the golden age is over to want to be a part of it.

The Rebels take the field today against the Memphis Tigers here on campus and will face the Arkansas State Red Wolves tomorrow at home as well. Both contests are scheduled for a 3 p.m. first pitch.

Rebels must improve to get into (any) tournament

BY REID BARRINEAU
The Daily Mississippian

When things are falling like dominoes, it's either really good or really bad.

For Ole Miss basketball team, things have the potential to get really bad if the dominoes keep falling.

The Rebels, 17-10 (5-7 SEC), lost of two of their last three and face a tall order this week, beginning with tonight's game against South Carolina. The last thing Ole Miss needs right now is to finish this season 0-6 against opponents from the East with West frontrunner Alabama coming to Oxford this weekend.

Something else the Rebels don't need is to ride a losing streak into March, but they're staring a good losing streak right in the face this week.

To say the least, it would be a disappointment if a team with NCAA Tournament aspirations was trying to avoid double-digit conference losses going into the last week of the regular season (next week).

While Ole Miss' tournament chances haven't quite been extinguished, the Rebs will have to do some damage in Atlanta even if they win out during the regular season.

Perhaps more troublesome than their slim tournament chances is what the Rebels might be staring at if they're on the skids down the stretch. It would be awful to see a team with potential perform so poorly, especially given its relatively easy conference schedule, that it was hoping and praying for an NIT berth come Selection Sunday.

But that's where the Rebels are right now.

They've played their way out of being mentioned in any serious at-large conversation and could be looking at playing themselves out of any real consideration for a spot in the other tournament.

As disappointing as it is to be a team that's constantly in the NIT, no postseason is still worse than playing in what amounts to a consolation tournament. At least NIT games allow a team to



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

Ole Miss forward Reginald Buckner dribbles down the court. Buckner had a solid outing against Mississippi State Saturday.

keep practicing and make more television appearances.

While that's not much, it's something. Playing on television is free advertising for programs, and additional practices

and games in the single-elimination setting help prepare a team's underclassmen for next year.

Unfortunately, that's pretty much where Ole Miss is right

now. It's trying to finish the season and send senior standout Chris Warren out on as high a note as it can while laying the foundation for a solid 2011-12 season.

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Transfer quarterbacks hit the Ole Miss campus

BY PAUL KATOOL
Sports Editor

Just a couple of months ago, Ole Miss quarterback Zack Stoudt was at Iowa Western Community College, where his dormitory building was located in the middle of a corn-

field. Now, following a successful two years in the junior college ranks, Stoudt is in the deep South competing to be the Rebels' starting quarterback, along with juniors Nathan Stanley and Randall Mackey and freshman West Virginia transfer

Barry Brunetti. "This has been my third stop throughout college," said Stoudt, who played at Louisville before transferring to IWCC. "It's nothing new to me — meeting new people — so it's definitely an advantage when it comes to moving to a new place. I've had to adjust to the lifestyle down here. The southern hospitality — it's not a lie. So that helps too."

Besides gaining an understanding of the southern lifestyle, Stoudt has also been familiarizing himself with new offensive coordinator David Lee, who wasn't on the staff when Stoudt signed with the Rebels. Lee, the Miami Dolphins quarterbacks coach last year, replaced Dave Rader in early January.

For Stoudt, who was recruited by Rader, the hiring of Lee helps level the playing field between himself and the quarterbacks who played under the old guard.

"Coach Lee, like I said, did a very good job of starting us all out at the same level," Stoudt said. "I loved Dave Rader from meeting with him and talking with him on my visit. He's a great guy, but Lee has his advantages of being new to the team because everybody is at the same level, and it does help to know that every time I get an answer wrong I'm not miles behind these guys, because I'm not."

While Stoudt has just begun to learn the offense that he's hoping to lead in the fall, he's also just started to familiarize himself with the abilities of his new teammates. For Stoudt, there are already a few players who have made a positive



CONTRIBUTED | The Daily Mississippian

impression.

"We've definitely got some weapons," Stoudt said. "I've watched film from last year. Ja-Mes Logan — I just threw to him — is impressive. Melvin Harris, he's got huge upside. Coach Nutt loves (Harris) and talks about him all the time. From what I've seen on film last year with the guys coming back and from what I've seen with the guys lifting and conditioning every day it gets me excited."

As spring practice creeps closer, Stoudt will have more time to gain a rapport with the Ole Miss skill players — something Stanley and Mackey have had more time to do. Stoudt, however, knows that regardless of experience this quarterback battle is an open race.

"We're all going to get our opportunities," Stoudt said. "We're all going to get our opportunities."

Brunetti makes switch from West Virginia to Ole Miss

Joining Stoudt as a legitimate contender for the Rebels' starting quarterback job is Brunetti, a freshman who transferred from West Virginia to Ole Miss after the fall semester.

Considered a dual-threat quarterback, Brunetti played sparingly behind West Virginia starter Geno

Smith, who had an excellent statistical year for the Mountaineers. In limited action, Brunetti completed 4-6 passes for six yards and also rushed once for six yards in 2010.

While he's hoping to beat out a trio of juniors for the starting job, Brunetti's presence in the Rebels' quarterback competition comes with one caveat: he must file and receive a hardship waiver from the NCAA to become immediately eligible. The basis of Brunetti's waiver is his ill mother who lives in Memphis.

"They're still working on (the waiver)," Brunetti said. "I met with (Director for Compliance David) Wells yesterday. We're still working on it. We'll be submitting it soon. It probably won't be until after spring (when a ruling is made)."

While Stoudt experienced somewhat of a culture shock upon transferring universities, Brunetti, a product of Memphis University School, was familiar with the Oxford area before switching to Ole Miss. Among the friends he had at the University before enrolling were wide receiver Ja-Mes Logan, basketball forward Reginald Buckner — a childhood friend — and many other non-athletes.

"(Being at Ole Miss) is kind of the same as coming in as a freshman at West Virginia," Brunetti said. "At the end of the day, you're going into a new program. You have to learn the offense and learn a new environment. But I'd say it's much better. I knew more people coming in from being in the region and living about 40 minutes away."

Even though it's not a sure thing Brunetti will be eligible in the fall, he's nevertheless moved forward with his on-field preparations, including learning the playbook and practicing going under center, something he's rarely done. But if the NCAA doesn't rule in his favor and Brunetti has to sit out 2011, he won't be too disappointed.

"(Not getting the waiver) won't kill me," Brunetti said. "It's another year to get better. I still have three years left no matter what happens. I'll be a vocal leader on the sidelines instead of on the field."

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| Gnomeo and Juliet 3D | G | 1:10 4:10 7:05 |
| I Am Number Four | PG-13 | 1:15 4:25 7:20 9:45 |
| Just Go With It | PG-13 | 1:20 4:25 7:15 9:50 |
| Justin Bieber: Never Say Never 3D | G | 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30 |
| No Strings Attached | R | 1:15 4:20 7:10 9:40 |
| Sanctum 3D | R | 9:10 |
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